



MEETING RULES

- 1. All members must register at the door.
- 2. All members who wish to speak must go to the microphone, identify themselves, and be recognized before speaking.
- 3. Only members and cooperative personnel are allowed to speak.
- 4. Debate on any subject shall be limited to two minutes per speaker, except that ECE representatives shall not be restricted to two minutes when responding to a member inquiry.
- 5. Debate will alternate between pro and con speakers. If no one wishes to speak against a motion/resolution, there will be no debate other than the maker of the motion.
- 6. All motions/resolutions must be submitted in writing to the chair.
- 7. A member may only speak once on an issue.
- 8. Clair Schaff, attorney, will preside as parliamentarian for the meeting.

Note: Any motion/resolution adopted by the membership at the annual meeting will be advisory only to the board of directors.

2024 Credentials & Election Committee		
District 1	Jim Haasis	Foxboro, WI
District 2	Gary Bue	Pine City, MN
District 2	Ron Rogosheske	Rush City, MN
District 4	Dwaine Norman	Cambridge, MN
District 4	Marcy Norman	Cambridge, MN
District 5	Les Pinz	Isle, MN
District 6	Jim Gans	Rice, MN

The Credentials & Election Committee assists in the election process and certifies voting results.

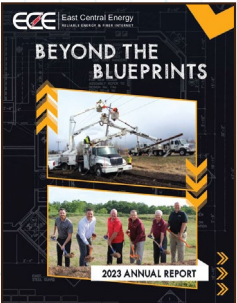
“BEYOND THE BLUEPRINTS”

AGENDA

5 p.m. Registration • 6 p.m. Business meeting

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Invocation | Ann Erickson, Member Resource Council |
| 2. Pledge of Allegiance | Bailey Rumreich, ECE DSO |
| 3. Call to order/Announcement of quorum | Joe Morley, Board Chair |
| 4. Meeting rules & notice/2023 minutes | Joe Morley |
| 5. Executive report | President/CEO Justin Jahnz |
| 6. Questions | Justin Jahnz |
| 7. Approve executive report | Joe Morley |
| 8. New business | Joe Morley |
| 9. Election results | Clair Schaff, Parker Satrom Law, P.A. |
| 10. Adjournment | Joe Morley |
| 11. Prize drawings | Justin Jahnz |

A copy of the 2023 Annual Report can be found at eastcentralenergy.com.



East Central Energy Annual Meeting of Members April 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The 87th annual meeting of East Central Energy convened in the Braham Event Center at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 20, 2023. An official notice of the date, time, and meeting location was included in the March/April 2023 ECE Co-op Advantage newsletter, which was mailed to each member. Notice was also provided in local newspapers and on social media.

Chair Linda Laitala thanked the Braham Event Center volunteers for their help with the event and use of the facility. Ms. Laitala noted the annual report and meeting agenda were included in the member registration packet. The agenda included a list of meeting rules and last year's annual meeting minutes. Ms. Laitala shared that a recording would be available on ECE's website.

Contact Specialist Bethany Ramberg gave the invocation. Ms. Laitala thanked the brave men and women in the United States Armed Forces, past and present, and paid tribute to prisoners of war, those missing in action, and those who lost their lives fighting for their country. Ms. Laitala asked members to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Laitala reported more than 201 members registered for the meeting. A quorum was declared, and the Cooperative's 2023 annual meeting was called to order. She instructed members to follow the meeting rules printed on the agenda. Members were asked if there were any objections to the meeting rules. Hearing no objections, the meeting rules were approved.

Members were asked if there were any objections to the secretary not reading the Official Notice of the meeting and the Certificate of Mailing. No objections were voiced, so the Official Notice and the Certificate of Mailing were approved in accordance with the information mailed to each voting member.

Members were asked if there were any changes or corrections to last year's meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2022, Annual Business Meeting was unanimously adopted. Ms. Laitala then turned the meeting over to President/CEO Justin Jahnz.

Mr. Jahnz thanked members for attending, introduced the current ECE Board of Directors, and recognized retiring directors David Deutschlander from District 2 for his 19 years of service and Garry Bye from District 4 for his eight years of service.

Mathew Viney, Executive Director of A Place for You in Pine City, MN, shared the shelter's mission as ECE's winner of the 2022 Touchstone Energy® Community Award. Afterward, Great River Energy President & CEO David Saggau updated members on GRE's power supply portfolio and rates, 2022 highlights, and legislative issues.

Mr. Jahnz shared that 2022 was a busy year, including two exciting major projects: the formation of a fiber internet business and the municipal acquisition of North Branch Water & Light. Mr. Jahnz shared that ECE divided the fiber internet project teams into three sections: campaign, technical, and strategy. In August, the cooperative applied for the MN Border-to-Border grant opportunity, seeking \$19.8 million for the project, and was awarded three grants totaling nearly \$15 million in December. ECE prepared for the rollout of fiber internet in 2023 by hiring a Broadband Manager and securing three buildings to accommodate the storage of fiber materials.

The city of North Branch decided in 2021 that it was in the best interests of its customers to wind down the utility. After a year and a half of discussions and research, along with several approvals from organizations including Great River Energy, the MN Public Utilities Commission, and Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, ECE was close to finalizing the acquisition of the municipal electric distribution system of North Branch Water & Light.

East Central Energy hosted several community events in 2022. In February, free electric vehicle safety training was provided to area fire departments, benefiting a total of 105 attendees. In May, a creative contest was organized for local high schools, where nine schools participated in creating tiny libraries, with Northwestern High School winning the grand prize. ECE celebrated National Pollinator Week in June with a "Pollineighbor Party" at Sapsucker Farms. ECE also delivered school supplies to teachers in August as part of the Teacher Totes project and contributed to Cambridge Surplus Food Distribution in October. ECE also shared its first Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) report with members, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to the community.

In 2022, East Central Energy had two extreme weather events that caused significant outages. In June, a severe summer storm led to a multi-day power outage affecting over 11,000 members at its peak and damaging around 45 poles. Later in December, a significant outage event, the most impactful in ten years, affected 12,284 members at its peak and impacted over 25,000 members in total due to heavy, wet snow accumulation. Restoration efforts during these events required significant manpower, including the assistance of 19 outside crews during the December storm.

ECE's total revenue for 2022 was almost \$134 million. Residential sales, including seasonal sales, accounted for over 68% of our revenue, while commercial and industrial sales contributed almost 28%. Capital credits and other revenue accounted for 3%.

In 2022 the board approved a capital credit payout of \$3.3 million. In total, ECE has returned over \$101 million to members over the years.

Purchased power, the majority of which ECE buys from Great River Energy, accounted for nearly 59% of ECE's uses of 2022 revenue. Interest, taxes, and depreciation contributed 13%. Member accounts and service, administrative services, and distribution represented almost 21%. Margins accounted for 7%.

Mr. Jahnz introduced VP/CFO Lisa Prachar, VP/CIO Ty Houglum, and VP/COO Andy Olson. After the question section, Mr. Jahnz turned the meeting over to Ms. Laitala, who said no old business was to be taken up. She stated the Cooperative Bylaws require all resolutions be submitted in writing before the annual business meeting, and no resolutions were received.

Ms. Laitala thanked the Credentials & Election (C&E) Committee and explained the committee's job is to oversee the election process and certify voting results.

According to ECE Bylaws, directors can be nominated by petition or by the board-approved nominating committee. In District 4, only one candidate was nominated by petition for the available seat on the board of directors. The C&E committee and ECE's legal counsel confirmed the candidate, Thomas Schoenecker, and he was acclaimed director. Voting by ballot was not necessary.

Chair Laitala called on ECE's attorney, Clair Schaff of Parker Satrom Law, P.A., to announce the results of the elections in Districts 2, 5, and 6.

Mr. Schaff reminded members that ECE does not participate in the tabulation of ballots. Instead, the co-op contracts with Survey and Ballot Systems, a third-party election management provider. Mr. Schaff announced the election results provided by Survey and Ballot Systems.

In District 2, there were a total of 1,308 valid ballots cast. Of those ballots, Mike Gainor received 567 votes, Linda LaTourelle received 524 votes, Andrew Rypkema received 131 votes, and Jim Rostberg received 86 votes. Mike Gainor was declared the director of District 2.

In district 5, there were a total of 1,140 valid ballots cast. Linda Laitala received 522 votes, Luke Stultz received 275 votes, Wayne Zaudtke received 197 votes, Jeni Zinda received 77 votes, and Jim Rueter received 69 votes. Linda Laitala was declared the director of District 5.

In District 6, there were a total of 1,120 valid ballots cast. Of those ballots, Jim Jesok received 656 votes, Mike Engmark received 343 votes, and Rick Stevens received 121 votes. Jim Jesok was declared the director for District 6.

Ms. Laitala thanked members for attending the annual meeting. There was no further business, and the 2023 annual business meeting was adjourned.

Jerry Tvedt, Secretary-Treasurer